

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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CONFIDENTIAL ALGIERS 1752

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP, PDIP, US, AG, CU, SF, SHUM

SUBJECT: PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS - AMBASSADOR HAYNES

1. FOLLOWING PRESENTATION OF LETTERS OF CREDENTIALS TO PRESIDENT BOUMEDIENE ON JULY 13 HE INVITED ME TO ADJOINING SALON FOR TWENTY-MINUTE PRIVATE EXCHANGE OF VIEWS. THERE WERE NO INTERPRETERS PRESENT AND WE SPOKE IN FRENCH. WHILE FONMIN BOUTEFLIKA AND SECRETARY GENERAL OF PRESIDENCY ALLAHOUW WERE ONLY OTHERS PRESENT FOR EXCHANGE, NEITHER PARTICIAPTED IN DISCUSSION.

2. IN COURSE OF OUR EXCHANGE, PRESIDENT MADE FOLLOWING POINTS:

A. VISIT TO US: HE OPENED BY ASKING ME TO TRANSMIT TO PRESIDENT CARTER HIS INTENTION TO ACCEPT INVITATION TO VISIT US. AS I DID WITH HIS FONMIN YESTERDAY, I AGAIN PROMISED TO OBTAIN SOME FIRM DATES FOR SUCH A VISIT FOR HIS CONSIDERATION.

B. CARTER VISIT TO ALGERIA: PRESIDENT ASKED ME TO CONFIDENTIAL

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PASS ON TO PRESIDENT CARTER HIS PERSONAL INVITATION TO VISIT ALGERIA AT PRESIDENT CARTER'S EARLIEST CONVENIENCE. HE SAID HE FELT IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT AMERICAN PRESIDENT VISIT A THIRD WORLD COUNTRY IN NEAR FUTURE AS DEMONSTRATION OF INTEREST IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. I POINTED OUT PRESIDENT CARTER'S COMMITMENT TO KEEP HIS OVERSEAS

TRAVEL TO A MINIMUM DURING THIS IMPORTANT FIRST YEAR OF HIS ADMINISTRATION. HOWEVER, I PROMISED TO PASS ON ALGERIAN PRESIDENT'S INVITATION TO PRESIDENT CARTER.

C. US RELATIONS WITH CUBA: PRESIDENT ASKED ME HOW US RELATIONS WITH CUBA ARE PROGRESSING. I TOLD HIM THAT US WAS MOVING STEADILY TOWARD RESUMPTION OF NORMAL DIPLOMATIC AND COMMERCIAL RELATIONS WITH CUBA. THEREUPON, HE OFFERED ME A LONG CUBAN CIGAR WHICH I REFUSED WITH THANKS. WITH A WRY SMILE ON HIS FACE, HE ASKED WHETHER HE SHOULD ATTACH ANY POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE TO MY REFUSAL OF HIS OFFER OF A CUBAN CIGAR.

D. US FOREIGN POLICY IN GENERAL: PRESIDENT EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH MANY OF FOREIGN POLICY POSITIONS TAKEN BY CARTER ADMINISTRATION, CITING IN PARTICULAR:

(1) RESUMPTION OF RELATIONS WITH CUBA

(2) EFFORTS TO SOLVE SOUTHERN AFRICA
COMPLEX OF PROBLEMS

(3) CONTINUED EFFORTS TO SEEK PEACE IN
MIDDLE EAST

(4) INTEGRATING HUMAN RIGHTS CONCERNS INTO
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OUT FOREIGN POLICY.

E. SOUTH AFRICA: PRESIDENT WANTED US TO KNOW THAT ALGERIA FEELS A CLOSE IDENTIFICATION WITH PLIGHT OF NON-WHITE MAJORITY IN SOUTH AFRICA AS ALGERIA'S RECENT HISTORY WAS ONE IN WHICH A MINORITY OF PREVILEGED FRENCHMEN SUCCESSFULLY DOMINATED AND EXPLOITED AN OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF INDIGENOUS ALGERIANS. HE ASKED ME TO ADVISE MY GOVERNMENT THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD BE FOLLOWING MATTER CLOSELY.

F. HUMAN RIGHTS: PRESIDENT EXPRESSED HOPE THAT APPLICATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS CONCERNS IN US FOREIGN POLICY WOULD NOT BE LIMITED TO A FEW SOVIET INTELLECTUALS OR SOVIET JEWS OR TO LONG-SUFFERING BLACKS OF SOWETO AND NAMIBIA. TO BE CREDIBLE, HE SAID, THAT CONCERN MUST ALSO BE APPLIED TO WESTERN SAHARA SITUATION AND RIGHT OF SAHRAOUI TO SELF-DETERMINATION. I ASSURED HIM THAT IT WAS INTENTION OF USG TO HOLD ALL FOREIGN POLICY MATTERS UP TO SCRUTINY FOR THEIR HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS. I FURTHER POINTED OUT MY PERSONAL PREOCCUPATION WITH HUMAN RIGHTS AS REPRESENTATIVE OF A COUNTRY IN WHOSE CULTURAL

AND LEGAL TRADITION THE CONCEPT OF HUMAN RIGHTS IS FIRMLY IMBEDDED. FURTHERMORE, I SAID, I HAD PERSONALLY SUFFERED THE EFFECTS OF DENIAL OF SOME OF MY OWN HUMAN RIGHTS AS WELL AS REAPED BENEFITS OF THEIR RECOGNITION.

G. AMBASSADOR'S RELATIONS WITH FONMIN:
PRESIDENT TERMINATED OUR EXCHANGE
WITH EXPRESSION OF BEST WISHES FOR EVERY SUCCESS IN MY
MISSION IN ALGERIA. HE ALSO URGED THAT I MAINTAIN
CLOSE PERSONAL CONTACT WITH HIS FONMIN. I REPLIED THAT
I FELT THE FONMIN AND I HAD ALREADY ESTABLISHED SOUND
BASIS FOR SUCH CLOSE RELATIONSHIP IN OUR JULY 12 MEETING
(SEE ALGIERS 1751), TO WHICH FONMIN ASSENTED.

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3. AFTER OUR MEETING, REPRESENTATIVE OF ALGERIAN PROTOCOL OFFICE ADVISED US THAT EXCHANGE WITH PRESIDENT WAS LONGER THAN IS USUAL AT SUCH PRESENTATION CEREMONIES. THROUGHOUT EXCHANGE, PRESIDENT WAS CORDIAL, REFLECTIVE, RELAXED AND INTENT ON CONVEYING HIS MESSAGE. HE SHOWED OCCASIONAL FLASHES OF HUMOR.

4. COMMENTS: AM REQUESTING DEPARTMENT TO ADVISE AND AUTHORIZE ME TO MAKE INFORMAL RESPONSE FROM PRESIDENT CARTER TO ALGERIAN PRESIDENT'S INVITATION TO VISIT ALGERIA.

5. I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO HAVE SET OF ALTERNATIVE DATES FOR BOUMEDIENE VISIT TO US SOONEST.

6. FINALLY ANY RECENT DEPT GUIDELINES (OTHER THAN THE PRESIDENT'S REMARKS AND SECRETARY VANCE'S GEORGIA SPEECH) ON HUMAN RIGHTS WOULD BE GREATLY APPRECIATED.HAYNES

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